

XLII.—Notes on *Fossorial Hymenoptera*.—XXIV. On the
Genus Nitela, Latr. . By ROWLAND E. TURNER, F.Z.S.,
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THE genus *Nitela* consists of very small wasps, which form their nests in dry wood, often in deserted beetle-holes, preying on small Homoptera. The genus has a wide range, occurring in all regions of the Old World and also in the Neotropical region, but apparently is absent from North America. Owing to the small size of the species, the genus is poorly represented in most collections, and doubtless many more remain to be discovered. Of the fifteen species recorded in this paper five are from Africa south of the Equator, two from Europe, one of these extending through India to Ceylon, three from Australia, and five from the Neotropical region.

Genus NITELA, Latr.

1. *Nitela spinolae*, Latr.

Nitela spinolae, Latr. Gen. Crust. & Insect. iv. p. 77 (1809). ♀.

Hab. Europe.

2. *Nitela fallax*, Kohl.

Nitela fallax, Kohl, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, xxxiii. p. 343 (1883).
♂ ♀.

Hab. Tyrol (Kohl); Pusa, Bihar (G. R. Dutt); Ceylon (Thwaites).

I have not seen European specimens, but from the description I consider there can be no doubt that the Indian specimens belong to the same species. The genus does not appear to have been previously recorded from India.

3. *Nitela sculpturata*, nom. nov.

Nitela reticulata, Turn. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 508, 1908 (October).
♀ (nec *N. reticulata*, Dücke, 1908, March).

Dücke's name has priority by a few months, and must be retained for the Brazilian species.

Hab. Mackay, Queensland.

4. *Nitela kurandæ*, Turn.

Nitela kurandæ, Turn. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 508 (1908). ♀.

Hab. Eastern coast districts of Queensland.

5. *Nitela australiensis*, Schulz.

Nitela australiensis, Schulz, Fauna Südwest Australiens, i. xiii. p. 483 (1908). ♀.

Nitela nigricans, Turn. Trans. Ent. Soc. London, p. 428 (1910). ♀.

Hab. S.W. Australia, Tasmania, Eastern Queensland.

6. *Nitela capicola*, Brauns.

Nitela capicola, Brauns, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, lxi. p. 140 (1911). ♂.

I have not seen this species, but from the description it appears to be a form of *N. jullax*, or, at all events, very closely allied to that species.

Hab. Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

7. *Nitela transvaalensis*, Brauns.

Nitela transvaalensis, Brauns, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, lxi. p. 141 (1908). ♀.

Hab. Lichtenberg, Transvaal.

8. *Nitela promontorii*, Brauns.

Nitela promontorii, Brauns, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, lxi. p. 141 (1911). ♂.

Hab. Uitenhage, S. Africa.

9. *Nitela merceti*, Brauns.

Nitela merceti, Brauns, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, lxi. p. 142 (1911). ♀ ♂.

Hab. Willowmore, S. Africa.

10. *Nitela rufiventris*, Turn.

Nitela rufiventris, Turn. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) xvii. p. 448 (1916). ♀.

Hab. Nyasaland.

11. *Nitela reticulata*, Dücke.

Nitela reticulata, Dücke, Rev. d'Entom. xxvii. p. 47 (1908). ♀.

Hab. Parà.

12. *Nitela amazonica*, Dücke.

Nitela amazonica, Dücke, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, liii. p. 270 (1903).

Hab. Parà, Minas Geraes.

13. *Nitela schmidti*, Brauns.

Nitela schmidti, Brauns, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, lxi. p. 142 (1911).
♀.

Hab. Costa Rica.

14. *Nitela costaricensis*, Brauns.

Nitela costaricensis, Brauns, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, lxi. p. 143
(1911). ♀.

Hab. Costa Rica.

15. *Nitela darwini*, sp. n.

♀. Nigra; mandibulis, tegulis, femoribus macula apicali, tibiis macula basali, tarsisque articulo basali ferrugineis; alis hyalinis, iridescentibus, venis fusco-ferrugineis.
Long. 3.5 mm.

♀. Head finely and very closely punctured, the clypeus and front as high as the base of the antennæ covered with silver pubescence. Posterior ocelli twice as far from each other as from the eyes. Pronotum short, the anterior and posterior margins distinctly raised, the space between them with distinct longitudinal striæ; the anterior margin feebly arched, not straight. Mesonotum rather more strongly and closely punctured than the head, the scutellum and post-scutellum more finely punctured. Mesopleuræ very finely punctured, the grooves shallow. Median segment coarsely longitudinally striated, the striæ slightly diverging towards the apex; the surface of the apical truncation very finely granulate; the sides of the segment finely rugulose-striate.